

REMARKS

Claims 15-23 are pending in this application. By this amendment claim 16 is amended. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Young and Griffin at the personal interview held January 14, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on November 7, 2007. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the reference therein and return an initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next Office Action.

The Office Action rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the January 14 interview, the Office Action's interpretation of claim 16 is incorrect, and the §112 second paragraph rejection is overcome by the correct reading of claim 16.

In accordance with the agreement reached during the January 14 interview, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 15-20, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 2001-179054 to Mitsuharu (discussed under the name Fumio during the January 14 interview). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the January 14 interview, independent claims 15 and 22 recite shielded cells that are sealed by an inner peripheral surface of the outer wall. Mitsuharu fails to disclose at least this feature of claims 15-20, 22 and 23.

The Office Action, on page 3, states that Figs. 1 and 2 disclose sealed cells. However, Mitsuharu does not disclose sealing any of the honeycomb paths 15 in Figs. 1 and 2. To the

contrary, the Abstract in Mitsuharu states that the majority of the fluid passes through the center hole 14; but the remainder of the fluid passes through the cells 12. As such, these cells cannot be sealed as recited by claims 15 and 22. Thus, Mitsuharu fails to disclose an outer wall that seals any of the honeycomb paths.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 15 and 22, and claims 16-20, and 23, depending therefrom, be withdrawn.

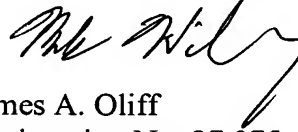
The Office Action rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mitsuharu in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,750,026 to Gadkaree et al. (hereinafter "Gadkaree"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Gadkaree fails to overcome the deficiencies of Mitsuharu by failing to disclose or suggest cells that are sealed, as called for in claim 15. Thus, Gadkaree and Mitsuharu do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 15, and claim 21 depending therefrom. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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